

Hilmar Moore gave Richmond time, the time of his life.

### THE THEORY OF VECTOR BUNDLES

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the discovery of a new breakthrough in mathematics in the theory of vector bundles.

The theory of vector bundles plays a crucial role in modern mathematics. Part of the interest comes from its application to quantum mechanics, the theory that makes modern electronics possible. In quantum mechanics, a particle has a position, which is a point in space-time, as well as an internal structure, which is described by the theory of complex vector bundles.

Over the last few years, the Boij-Soderberg theory has given a new approach to vector bundles in several important areas. Just yesterday, the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley, California, announced that several young scientists collaborated to discover how to extend this theory into new places, such as spheres.

The discovery is a significant accomplishment, and I commend these young scientists for their hard work and dedication. It's because of efforts like this that the U.S. continues to be a leader in innovation.

### A HOLIDAY GIFT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, time is counting down, the holidays are upon us, and Congress still hasn't come together to spare hardworking middle class families from the tax hike rushing towards them.

We know we agree on this. We know what this tax increase would mean for these families. Why aren't we voting on that? Why won't we have a vote on protecting the middle class from this tax hike?

We know that every minute we delay is more stress, more anxiety for mothers and fathers looking at the holiday season, worried about what's waiting for them on the other side. What are we waiting for?

I know Members of Congress might stay here through Christmas, but let's make sure that our holiday gift to the American people is a Congress that doesn't hold the middle class families hostage. Let's bring the middle class tax cuts to the floor for a vote today.

### IN MEMORY OF DAVE BRUBECK

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, this month we lost a giant in the music industry. Dave Brubeck was a legendary jazz and classical pianist and composer who helped to define jazz.

A fellow Mills College graduate in my district in Oakland, California, Dave served in a crucial role as a jazz visionary who first began his iconic musical experimentation as a student. He subsequently grew to become a world-renowned musician and composer, writing more than 200 compositions and making over 115 recordings, including the jazz piece "Take Five," which became one of The Dave Brubeck Quartet's best known records.

Throughout his long career, Dave has received many national and international honors, including the National Medal of Arts from President Clinton and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. In 2007, he received the Living Legend Jazz Award from the Kennedy Center and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the London Symphony Orchestra.

I had the privilege to meet Dave a couple of years ago during one of the amazing musical events held at the Library of Congress. What an amazing, gentle man of such strength and vision.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife and his family during this very difficult period.

□ 0910

### BUILDING FOR A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Sequestration would be a huge blow not only to middle class families but also to our clean energy innovators and entrepreneurs.

According to the Office of Management and Budget, sequestration would impose an across-the-board cut of nearly 10 percent to critical clean energy and innovation programs. That would mean a \$148 million cut to the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program alone. These cuts would tremendously damage our ability to develop the clean energy technologies of tomorrow, technologies that lead not only to lower energy bills for our constituents but also to new businesses and middle class jobs. I see it every day in my congressional district, where cutting-edge companies like LaunchPoint Technologies and Transphorm use Federal funding to develop exciting new ideas that would otherwise languish on the drawing board.

Mr. Speaker, the threat of sequestration and the fiscal cliff is very real. It's time for us to come together and pass a balanced package that continues building for a clean energy future.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

### IMPROPER PAYMENTS ELIMINATION AND RECOVERY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2012

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4053) to intensify efforts to identify, prevent, and recover payment error, waste, fraud, and abuse within Federal spending, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4053

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012".*

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

*In this Act—*

(1) the term "agency" means an executive agency as that term is defined under section 102 of title 31, United States Code;

(2) the term "improper payment" has the meaning given that term in section 2(g) of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note), as redesignated by section 3(a)(1) of this Act; and

(3) the term "State" means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each territory or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian tribe.

#### SEC. 3. IMPROVING THE DETERMINATION OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 2 of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (g) as subsections (c) through (h), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) IMPROVING THE DETERMINATION OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS.—

"(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall on an annual basis—

"(A) identify a list of high-priority Federal programs for greater levels of oversight and review—

"(i) in which the highest dollar value or highest rate of improper payments occur; or

"(ii) for which there is a higher risk of improper payments; and

"(B) in coordination with the agency responsible for administering the high-priority program, establish annual targets and semi-annual or quarterly actions for reducing improper payments associated with each high-priority program.

"(2) *REPORT ON HIGH-PRIORITY IMPROPER PAYMENTS.*—

"(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to Federal privacy policies and to the extent permitted by law, each agency with a program identified under paragraph (1)(A) on an annual basis shall submit to the Inspector General of that agency, and make available to the public (including availability through the Internet), a report on that program.

“(B) CONTENTS.—Each report under this paragraph—

“(i) shall describe—

“(I) any action the agency—

“(aa) has taken or plans to take to recover improper payments; and

“(bb) intends to take to prevent future improper payments; and

“(ii) shall not include any referrals the agency made or anticipates making to the Department of Justice, or any information provided in connection with such referrals.

“(C) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY ON CENTRAL WEBSITE.—The Office of Management and Budget shall make each report submitted under this paragraph available on a central website.

“(D) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B)(ii) shall not prohibit any referral or information being made available to an Inspector General as otherwise provided by law.

“(E) ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Inspector General of each agency that submits a report under this paragraph shall, for each program of the agency that is identified under paragraph (1)(A)—

“(i) review—

“(I) the assessment of the level of risk associated with the program, and the quality of the improper payment estimates and methodology of the agency relating to the program; and

“(II) the oversight or financial controls to identify and prevent improper payments under the program; and

“(ii) submit to Congress recommendations, which may be included in another report submitted by the Inspector General to Congress, for modifying any plans of the agency relating to the program, including improvements for improper payments determination and estimation methodology.”;

(3) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection), by striking “subsection (b)” each place that term appears and inserting “subsection (c)”;

(4) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection), by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection (c)”;

(5) in subsection (g)(3) (as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection), by inserting “or a Federal employee” after “non-Federal person or entity”.

(b) IMPROVED ESTIMATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide guidance to agencies for improving the estimates of improper payments under the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note).

(2) GUIDANCE.—Guidance under this subsection shall—

(A) strengthen the estimation process of agencies by setting standards for agencies to follow in determining the underlying validity of sampled payments to ensure amounts being billed, paid, or obligated for payment are proper;

(B) instruct agencies to give the persons or entities performing improper payments estimates access to all necessary payment data, including access to relevant documentation;

(C) explicitly bar agencies from relying on self-reporting by the recipients of agency payments as the sole source basis for improper payments estimates;

(D) require agencies to include all identified improper payments in the reported estimate, regardless of whether the improper payment in question has been or is being recovered;

(E) include payments to employees, including salary, locality pay, travel pay, purchase card use, and other employee payments, as subject to risk assessment and, where appropriate, improper payment estimation; and

(F) require agencies to tailor their corrective actions for the high-priority programs identified under section 2(b)(1)(A) of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321

note) to better reflect the unique processes, procedures, and risks involved in each specific program.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-204; 31 U.S.C. 3321 note.) is amended—

(1) in section 2(h)(1), by striking “section 2(f)” and all that follows and inserting “section 2(g) of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note).”; and

(2) in section 3(a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section 2(f)” and all that follows and inserting “section 2(g) of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note).”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “section 2(b)” each place it appears and inserting “section 2(c).”; and

(ii) by striking “section 2(c)” each place it appears and inserting “section 2(d).”.

#### SEC. 4. IMPROPER PAYMENTS INFORMATION.

Section 2(a)(3)(A)(ii) of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note) is amended by striking “with respect to fiscal years following September 30th of a fiscal year beginning before fiscal year 2013 as determined by the Office of Management and Budget” and inserting “with respect to fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

#### SEC. 5. DO NOT PAY INITIATIVE.

(a) PREPAYMENT AND PREAWARD PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each agency shall review prepayment and preaward procedures and ensure that a thorough review of available databases with relevant information on eligibility occurs to determine program or award eligibility and prevent improper payments before the release of any Federal funds.

(2) DATABASES.—At a minimum and before issuing any payment and award, each agency shall review as appropriate the following databases to verify eligibility of the payment and award:

(A) The Death Master File of the Social Security Administration.

(B) The General Services Administration's Excluded Parties List System.

(C) The Debt Check Database of the Department of the Treasury.

(D) The Credit Alert System or Credit Alert Interactive Voice Response System of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(E) The List of Excluded Individuals/Entities of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) DO NOT PAY INITIATIVE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Do Not Pay Initiative which shall include—

(A) use of the databases described under subsection (a)(2); and

(B) use of other databases designated by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in consultation with agencies and in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) OTHER DATABASES.—In making designations of other databases under paragraph (1)(B), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

(A) consider any database that substantially assists in preventing improper payments; and

(B) provide public notice and an opportunity for comment before designating a database under paragraph (1)(B).

(3) ACCESS AND REVIEW BY AGENCIES.—For purposes of identifying and preventing improper payments, each agency shall have access to, and use of, the Do Not Pay Initiative to verify payment or award eligibility in accordance with subsection (a) when the Director of the Office of Management and Budget determines the Do Not Pay Initiative is appropriately established for the agency.

(4) PAYMENT OTHERWISE REQUIRED.—When using the Do Not Pay Initiative, an agency shall recognize that there may be circumstances

under which the law requires a payment or award to be made to a recipient, regardless of whether that recipient is identified as potentially ineligible under the Do Not Pay Initiative.

(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress an annual report, which may be included as part of another report submitted to Congress by the Director, regarding the operation of the Do Not Pay Initiative, which shall—

(A) include an evaluation of whether the Do Not Pay Initiative has reduced improper payments or improper awards; and

(B) provide the frequency of corrections or identification of incorrect information.

(c) DATABASE INTEGRATION PLAN.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide to the Congress a plan for—

(1) inclusion of other databases on the Do Not Pay Initiative;

(2) to the extent permitted by law, agency access to the Do Not Pay Initiative; and

(3) the data use agreements described under subsection (e)(2)(D).

(d) INITIAL WORKING SYSTEM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall establish a working system for prepayment and preaward review that includes the Do Not Pay Initiative as described under this section.

(2) WORKING SYSTEM.—The working system established under paragraph (1)—

(A) may be located within an appropriate agency;

(B) shall include not less than 3 agencies as users of the system; and

(C) shall include investigation activities for fraud and systemic improper payments detection through analytic technologies and other techniques, which may include commercial database use or access.

(3) APPLICATION TO ALL AGENCIES.—Not later than June 1, 2013, each agency shall review all payments and awards for all programs of that agency through the system established under this subsection.

(e) FACILITATING DATA ACCESS BY FEDERAL AGENCIES AND OFFICES OF INSPECTORS GENERAL FOR PURPOSES OF PROGRAM INTEGRITY.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “Inspector General” means any Inspector General described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (I) of section 11(b)(1) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and any successor Inspector General.

(2) COMPUTER MATCHING BY FEDERAL AGENCIES FOR PURPOSES OF INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS AND FRAUD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this paragraph, in accordance with section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Privacy Act of 1974), each Inspector General and the head of each agency may enter into computer matching agreements with other inspectors general and agency heads that allow ongoing data matching (which shall include automated data matching) in order to assist in the detection and prevention of improper payments.

(B) REVIEW.—Not later than 60 days after a proposal for an agreement under subparagraph (A) has been presented to a Data Integrity Board established under section 552a(u) of title 5, United States Code, for consideration, the Data Integrity Board shall respond to the proposal.

(C) TERMINATION DATE.—An agreement under subparagraph (A)—

(i) shall have a termination date of less than 3 years; and

(ii) during the 3-month period ending on the date on which the agreement is scheduled to terminate, may be renewed by the agencies entering the agreement for not more than 3 years.

(D) **MULTIPLE AGENCIES.**—For purposes of this paragraph, section 552a(o)(1) of title 5, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting “between the source agency and the recipient agency or non-Federal agency or an agreement governing multiple agencies” for “between the source agency and the recipient agency or non-Federal agency” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A).

(E) **COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS.**—A justification under section 552a(o)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, relating to an agreement under subparagraph (A) is not required to contain a specific estimate of any savings under the computer matching agreement.

(3) **GUIDANCE BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and in consultation with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of Social Security, and the head of any other relevant agency, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

(A) issue guidance for agencies regarding implementing this subsection, which shall include standards for—

(i) reimbursement of costs, when necessary, between agencies;

(ii) retention and timely destruction of records in accordance with section 552a(o)(1)(F) of title 5, United States Code; and

(iii) prohibiting duplication and redisclosure of records in accordance with section 552a(o)(1)(H) of title 5, United States Code;

(B) review the procedures of the Data Integrity Boards established under section 552a(u) of title 5, United States Code, and develop new guidance for the Data Integrity Boards to—

(i) improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of the Data Integrity Boards;

(ii) ensure privacy protections in accordance with section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Privacy Act of 1974); and

(iii) establish standard matching agreements for use when appropriate; and

(C) establish and clarify rules regarding what constitutes making an agreement entered under paragraph (2)(A) available upon request to the public for purposes of section 552a(o)(2)(A)(ii) of title 5, United States Code, which shall include requiring publication of the agreement on a public website.

(4) **CORRECTIONS.**—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall establish procedures providing for the correction of data in order to ensure—

(A) compliance with section 552a(p) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) that corrections are made in any Do Not Pay Initiative database and in any relevant source databases designated by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under subsection (b)(1).

(5) **COMPLIANCE.**—The head of each agency, in consultation with the Inspector General of the agency, shall ensure that any information provided to an individual or entity under this subsection is provided in accordance with protocols established under this subsection.

(6) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to affect the rights of an individual under section 552a(p) of title 5, United States Code.

(f) **DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS TO A DATABASE OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress recommendations for increasing the use of, access to, and the technical feasibility of using data on the Federal, State, and local conviction and incarceration status of individuals for purposes of identifying and preventing improper payments by Federal agencies and programs and fraud.

(g) **PLAN TO CURB FEDERAL IMPROPER PAYMENTS TO DECEASED INDIVIDUALS BY IMPROVING**

**THE QUALITY AND USE BY FEDERAL AGENCIES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION DEATH MASTER FILE.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—In conjunction with the Commissioner of Social Security and in consultation with relevant stakeholders that have an interest in or responsibility for providing the data, and the States, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall establish a plan for improving the quality, accuracy, and timeliness of death data maintained by the Social Security Administration, including death information reported to the Commissioner under section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)).

(2) **ADDITIONAL ACTIONS UNDER PLAN.**—The plan established under this subsection shall include recommended actions by agencies to—

(A) increase the quality and frequency of access to the Death Master File and other death data;

(B) achieve a goal of at least daily access as appropriate;

(C) provide for all States and other data providers to use improved and electronic means for providing data;

(D) identify improved methods by agencies for determining ineligible payments due to the death of a recipient through proactive verification means; and

(E) address improper payments made by agencies to deceased individuals as part of Federal retirement programs.

(3) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit a report to Congress on the plan established under this subsection, including recommended legislation.

#### **SEC. 6. IMPROVING RECOVERY OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS.**

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “recovery audit” means a recovery audit described under section 2(h) of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010 (31 U.S.C. 3301 note).

(b) **REVIEW.**—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall determine—

(1) current and historical rates and amounts of recovery of improper payments (or, in cases in which improper payments are identified solely on the basis of a sample, recovery rates and amounts estimated on the basis of the applicable sample), including a list of agency recovery audit contract programs and specific information of amounts and payments recovered by recovery audit contractors; and

(2) targets for recovering improper payments, including specific information on amounts and payments recovered by recovery audit contractors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

#### **GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Federal agencies made an estimated \$108 billion in improper payments in fiscal year 2012, and that is the esti-

mate from the Office of Management and Budget. Many programs maintain an alarming rate of improper payments—some programs above 8 percent. This is an unacceptable waste of taxpayer dollars.

I appreciate my colleague, the departing gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS), for sponsoring this piece of legislation because here we are fighting for fiscal sanity in this country, and we have \$108 billion estimated in improper payments.

These improper payments occur when Federal funds are paid out that should not be paid out. In many instances, Federal funds are going out to ineligible recipients. Last year, the Inspector General of the Office of Personnel Management found that Federal retirement and disability benefits totaling \$600 million were paid out to deceased individuals over a 5-year period.

The Oversight Committee and its subcommittees have held a series of hearings in this Congress on the issuance of improper payments, and I thank Chairman ISSA for his leadership in holding these hearings and in encouraging this piece of legislation to be brought to the floor. The legislation introduced by Mr. TOWNS will help to address the concerns identified at those hearings. H.R. 4053 builds on prior legislation to reduce and prevent improper payments.

A decade ago, the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 was signed into law, compelling agencies to identify payment errors in specific programs. That 2002 law was updated again in 2010 by the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act, which required the better identification and estimation of improper payments. The bill before us today goes even further, primarily by harnessing improved information technology to reduce improper payments. It requires the administration to implement a do-not-pay initiative, and it enables Federal agencies to enter into multilateral data-sharing agreements.

I commend Mr. TOWNS for offering this important piece of legislation and for helping to advance the effort to reduce waste in the Federal Government.

I urge the passage of H.R. 4053, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I would like to thank the Members who worked very hard to make this a reality, and I want to take the opportunity to applaud the leadership and its commitment to the Members of Congress who have worked so hard on this legislation—Senator CARPER and Senator COLLINS and, of course, Congressman ISSA and Congressman CUMMINGS from Maryland. They have all worked very closely with us, along with my good friend Congressman PLATTS, to make this day a reality.

Through its stewardship, the Subcommittee on Government Organization, Efficiency and Financial Management has conducted a series of hearings on the problems of improper payments, and this legislation is the result of our findings on those hearings.

I also want to thank the staff who worked very hard on H.R. 4053. Of course, it is a proud accomplishment when you listen to the stories of people who are in the military and when you hear how they go months and months without their families getting paid, that they are transferred from one base to another and, as a result, the families do not get paid because they're saying they cannot locate where they are. Of course, many times when soldiers are transferred from one base to another, you'll find that they are not able to get paid. I think that that's something that we should abort because here they are defending this country in a magnificent way, and we cannot find a way to get them paid. This legislation points out how important it is to be able to get them paid.

On that note, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE), who is very interested in this and who has expressed over and over again how important it is to make certain that our military people are paid and are paid on time.

Mr. ALTMIRE. I thank the gentleman, my good friend from New York.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act, a bill that will help the Federal Government better protect taxpayer dollars against waste, fraud, and abuse.

According to the Government Accountability Office, as my friend from Utah just said, the Federal Government made \$108 billion in improper payments during fiscal year 2012 alone, which is unacceptable. This bill will increase transparency while eliminating and recovering these improper payments through the creation of a government-wide do-not-pay list. This list will prevent improper payments, such as Social Security checks for deceased Americans, before that payment ever goes out.

The national deficit remains one of the biggest challenges facing this country, and I am proud to cosponsor this bill because it protects taxpayer dollars by forcing the Federal Government to scrutinize every dollar spent—just like every American family does. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, but I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNS. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, in closing, first let me just thank and commend my colleague Mr. TOWNS. This very well might be the final bill that he will introduce and that will pass this body. He is a good and decent

gentleman. When I came here 4 years ago as a freshman, he was one of the most gracious and great people to work with. He was the chairman of our committee. I was a fresh newbie there; yet he helped me in every way while showing a great deal of respect across the aisle.

I congratulate him on an amazing experience here in the Congress. This is another example of a good bill that this gentleman is putting forward. I wish him nothing but the best with the rest of his career and life and everything else. We need more good people like Mr. TOWNS participating in this Congress. So I congratulate him on this bill, urge the passage of this bill, and thank him for his great work.

Mr. TOWNS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. TOWNS. Let me just say, too, that you're right, this is probably my final bill, and it has been great serving here in this Congress for 30 years. You've taught me a lot, too, and let me just tell you the latest thing that you taught me.

We were having a hearing with all of these professional football players in terms of how they performed on the field and regarding enhancement drugs and all of that. When they turned to you—because we were saying that you were the only football player on the committee—you said that you were not a football player but that you were a kicker. I thought that that was a very interesting comment because I'd just assumed all of these years that you were a football player since you set all those records.

I want to thank you so much for your kind words. It has been a delight to work with you as well.

□ 0920

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Reclaiming my time, again I commend the gentleman for this bill and his great career, and I urge passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4053, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### GAO MANDATES REVISION ACT OF 2012

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3315) to repeal or modify certain

mandates of the Government Accountability Office.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3315

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “GAO Mandates Revision Act of 2012”.

#### SEC. 2. REPEALS AND MODIFICATIONS.

(a) CAPITOL PRESERVATION FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—Section 804 of the Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988 (2 U.S.C. 2084) is amended by striking “annual audits of the transactions of the Commission” and inserting “periodic audits of the transactions of the Commission, which shall be conducted at least once every 3 years, unless the Chairman or the Ranking Member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate or the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, or the Clerk of the House of Representatives requests that an audit be conducted at an earlier date.”.

(b) JUDICIAL SURVIVORS' ANNUITIES FUND AUDIT BY GAO.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 376 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (w); and  
(B) by redesignating subsections (x) and (y) as subsections (w) and (x), respectively.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 376(h)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking “subsection (x)” and inserting “subsection (w)”.

(c) ONDCP ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Section 203 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (21 U.S.C. 1708a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “of each year” and inserting “, 2013, and every 3 years thereafter,”; and

(2) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “at a frequency of not less than once per year—” and inserting “not later than December 31, 2013, and every 3 years thereafter—”.

(d) USERRA GAO REPORT.—Section 105(g)(1) of the Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-275; 38 U.S.C. 4301 note) is amended by striking “, and annually thereafter during the period when the demonstration project is conducted.”.

(e) SEMIPOSTAL PROGRAM REPORTS BY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.—Section 2 of the Semipostal Authorization Act (Public Law 106-253; 114 Stat. 636; 39 U.S.C. 416 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and  
(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

(f) EARNED IMPORT ALLOWANCE PROGRAM REVIEW BY GAO.—Section 231A(b)(4) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (19 U.S.C. 2703a(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (C); and  
(2) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C).

(g) AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITS.—Section 2103(h) of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “of paragraph (2) of this subsection” and inserting “of section 3515 of title 31”;  
(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1)”; and  
(3) by striking paragraph (2).

(h) SENATE PRESERVATION FUND AUDITS.—Section 3(c)(6) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2004 (2 U.S.C. 2108(c)(6)) is amended by striking “annual audits of the Senate Preservation Fund” and inserting “periodic audits of the Senate Preservation